

CHURCH OF SATAN FOUNDER DEAD

December 9, 1997 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -

Anton LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan, died on October 29 at age 67 of a long-standing heart condition. LaVey was one of the many offbeat personalities who flourished in California during the era of New Age hippyism in the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s. He founded the Church of Satan in 1966 and played the part of the devil in the occultic horror movie "Rosemary's Baby" in 1968. LaVey performed satanic weddings and baptized his first daughter into his satanic church.

LaVey claimed that he did not believe in a biblical devil. He considered the devil a psychological figment of man's imagination. He believed in free thinking and free living. He preached living for the day instead of living for an afterlife "that nobody can prove exists."

He wrote five books, including "The Satanic Bible," "The Satanic Witch" and "The Satanic Rituals," of which there are more than one million copies in print combined. Each has been translated into nearly every major language. His final book, "Satan Speaks," is scheduled for release next spring (Karyn Hunt, "Church of Satan Founder Dies at 67," Associated Press, Nov. 7, 1997).

His daughter, Karla, plans to carry on in her father's footsteps. His grandson, Stanton, 19, was quoted as saying that Anton "was cooler than most friends of mine."

The devil inspires people to be "cool," but the Lord inspires them to be holy.